

JUSTIFICATION
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
23 Christopher Way
Eatontown, NJ 07724

2. Description of Action: This proposed action is for a firm-fixed-price delivery order to be issued against the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) V Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) for Imperva hardware, software, maintenance, and support.

3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed action is for the acquisition of Imperva hardware and software appliances for Web Application Firewall and Database Activity Monitoring and software licenses to be perpetually assigned to the associated Imperva appliances for database protection and vulnerability assessment needs. This includes upgrades of database scanner quantities and one year subscription services. All delivery shall be electronic for software and software licenses within 30 days after delivery order award. Hardware delivery shall also be completed within 30 days of delivery order award. Maintenance and support are required to ensure all of these items remain operational. The period of performance for the hardware maintenance and software support shall consist of one 12-month base period from date of delivery.

4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C. 4106(c)(2) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 16.505(b)(2)(i)(B), entitled "Only one awardee is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services ordered are unique or highly specialized."

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: Based on market research, as described in section 8 of this Justification, it was determined that limited competition is viable among authorized resellers for the required Imperva hardware, software, maintenance, and support. VA, Office of Information and Technology, Service Delivery and Engineering, Enterprise Operations (EO) provides Information Technology (IT) security monitoring and protection services to all applications and systems operating in EO data centers. EO currently is expanding EO virtual system environments into non-EO data centers. EO currently uses an Imperva-based application and database protection system in its data centers. No other application and database protection solution is able to integrate with the currently fielded Imperva architecture and Imperva-based architecture licensing. Additionally, no other brand name database vulnerability assessment system has been determined to be interoperable or compatible with the currently fielded Imperva-based brand name architecture. Specifically, the current system and software communicates through source code that is based on Imperva proprietary data. The current EO virtual system environment includes five existing Imperva-related physical appliances and licenses spread over five EO data centers. These software appliances are needed to support VA's IT visibility to the Network

Initiative, which includes database discovery activities. In addition, only Imperva software and hardware appliances can provide the VA functional requirement for upstream forwarding of any localized vulnerability discovery data into the existing EO Imperva architecture. The upstream forwarding of data is critical to produce a single view collective status of all database vulnerability security-related information over the network as required by National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-53. This will ultimately provide EO a single interactive view that displays the monitored EO's network's security posture of all network elements of database protection. Without the additional Imperva database protections, the IT systems and data stored in the non-EO data centers would be vulnerable to breach. A breach of the IT systems and/or data in the non-EO data centers could subject VA to a loss of internal VA information as a compromised network security.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in section 8 of this Justification. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. It was determined, however, that limited competition is anticipated among authorized resellers of Imperva application and database protection hardware, software, and maintenance on the NASA SEWP V GWAC. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(D), this action will be synopsisized upon award on the Federal Business Opportunities Page page within 14 days after award, and this Justification will be made publicly available. In accordance with FAR 16.505(a)(4)(iii)(A)(2), this Justification will be provided with the solicitation to all contract awardees on the NASA SEWP V GWAC.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continually conduct market research by surveying the marketplace to determine if there are any other application and database protection solutions that can meet VA's needs.

8. Market Research: The Government's technical experts conducted market research in March 2015 by reviewing other similar application and database protection solutions from DB Networks, Application Security Inc. and International Business Machines to ascertain if they could meet the Government's requirements for interoperability and compatibility with VA's current application and database protection solution. The only solution that can meet VA's needs is Imperva, which can be obtained only through Imperva or an authorized reseller. No other solution can interoperate with VA's current application and database protection solution as the current system architecture and software communicates through source code that is based on Imperva proprietary data. No other solution can meet the VA functional requirement for upstream forwarding of any localized vulnerability discovery data into the existing EO Imperva architecture

Additional market research was conducted in May 2015 by utilizing the NASA SEWP V Provider Lookup Tool. The results of the search found that there are four resellers that hold GWACs that can provide Imperva brand name products under North American Industry Classification System code 541519. Of the four resellers, two are Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) and two are Large Businesses.

9. Other Facts: None.